

Application No.: 09/824,280
Amendment Dated: December 16, 2004
Reply to Final Office Action of: September 27, 2004

MTS-3246US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-10 and 13-18 have been rejected. Claims 19 and 20 have been objected-to.

Drawings

As requested, Applicants have now amended Fig. 2 by labeling each box in the figure with an identifier of P₁ through P₆ and noting that the increased time shown after event 16 meets the equation noted in the specification.

As requested, amended Fig. 2 has been included as a replacement sheet.

In addition, Applicants have provided a replacement sheet for Fig. 3, which was previously submitted to the USPTO with an added legend of "PRIOR ART".

Specification

The specification has been amended at pages 19 and 20 to include text that corresponds to the amendment of Fig. 2.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 19 and 20 include allowable subject matter and would be allowable, if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have now amended claim 1 by combining it with the allowable features of claim 19. Similarly, Applicants have now amended claim 13 by combining it with the allowable features of claim 20.

Claims 19 and 20 have now been cancelled.

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Section 102/103 Rejections

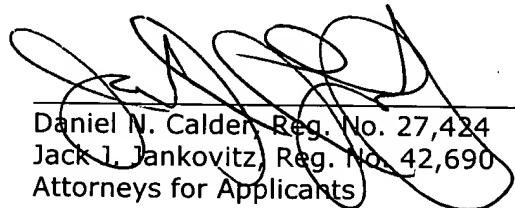
As indicated above, Applicants have now amended independent claims 1 and 13 by combining them, respectively, with the allowable features of now cancelled claims 19 and 20. Amended claims 1 and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 2-10 and 14-18 depend, respectively, from amended claim 1 and amended claim 13. These dependent claims are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claims 1 and 13.

Conclusion

Claims 1-10 and 13-18 are in condition for allowance. Claims 19 and 20 have been cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,



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JJJ/fp

Attachments: Figures 2 and 3 (2 sheets)

Dated: December 16, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

December 16, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 2 and 3. These sheets replace the original sheets.